

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A retorted canned pet food product comprising:
a base layer comprising solid food pieces in a thin gravy, the gravy comprising about 20% to about 40% by weight of the base layer; and
an upper layer on said base layer and comprising a substantially solid foodstuff, said layers remaining clear and distinct while in the can and said upper layer capable of supporting the base layer when the pet food product is inverted, the substantially solid foodstuff comprising about 20% to about 80% by weight of the pet food product.

Claim 2 (original): A product according to claim 1 in which the solid food pieces in the base layer are a formulated emulsion product having the striated appearance of natural meat.

Claim 3 (original): A product according to claim 2 in which the formulated emulsion product is in the form of flakes.

Claim 4 (original): A product according to claim 1 in which the gravy comprises water and about 2% to about 8% by weight of a heat sensitive starch which undergoes a reduction in its viscosity increasing properties during heating.

Claim 5 (original): A product according to claim 1 in which the gravy has an initial viscosity in the range of about 350 to about 1000 centipoise prior to filling of the base layer into the can.

Claim 6 (original): A product according to claim 1 in which the base layer has a moisture content of about 60% to about 70% by weight.

Claim 7 (original): A product according to claim 1 in the substantially solid foodstuff is a gelled meat loaf, cooked rice, cooked noodles, or aspic, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (original): A product according to claim 7 in which the upper layer has a moisture content of about 70% to about 85% by weight.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A product according to claim 9 in which the upper layer has a viscosity in the range of about 2500 to about 4000 centipoise during filing of the upper layer into the can.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A process for producing a canned pet food product having at least two layers, the process comprising:

filling a base layer comprising solid food pieces in a gravy into a can, the gravy having a viscosity in the range of about 350 to about 1000 centipoise and forming about 20% to about 40% by weight of the base layer;

filling an upper layer on the base layer in ~~into~~ the can, the upper layer comprising a settable foodstuff having a viscosity in the range of about 2500 to about 4000 centipoise and, upon cooling, forming a substantially solid foodstuff, the settable foodstuff comprising about 20% to about 80% by weight of upper and base layers, and wherein the layers remain clear and distinct due to their density and viscosity;

sealing the can; and

retorting the sealed can which converts the base layer to solid food pieces in a thin gravy.